



Contact
Donna Grant

DCF Family Support Impact Summary

Since July 1, 2014, the DCF Family Support grant has allowed TEEG to continue offering our weekly parent education program, weekly Gamblers Anonymous groups, and our twice weekly Parent/Child Playgroup sessions, home visits via our Parents as Teachers program, and two 4-week Anger Management workshops. This grant also funds Project East, a school - community partnership working on early identification and intervention for elementary school children in the North Windham Elementary school. This program is discussed in detail in a supplemental report. These programs and our ongoing work within the community have increased our connections with local providers as well as given us the opportunity to leverage funds and share local resources, while empowering families to obtain and maintain their own individual goals. Funding from DCF has given us countless opportunities to have a meaningful community presence at collaborative meetings such as LIST, Communities Raising Children and NEAC, in addition to the development of a local Service Review Team called the NEST-the Northeast Support Team.

While offering programming in a service deprived area of the state, we have identified that cultivating strong relationships with local service providers enhances our daily work with vulnerable families in Northeastern CT. These relationships have helped us to stretch every dollar to ensure that we are able to serve as many individuals as possible in a variety of settings, by delivering services that have proven to be a successful and positive experience.

Our parent education program, Parent Empowered is currently fully funded with monies from the DCF Family Support grant. This program is offered weekly in North Grosvenordale and monthly in Plainfield and is open to all families and providers. Parents Empowered is free and includes a nutritious family style dinner and onsite childcare. This fiscal year, we have offered topics such as Foods for Focus, The Stranger You Know, Stress Busters, Dr. Dad, Holiday Centerpiece workshops, Woman's Self Defense, CPR/First Aid and classes regarding food preservation. Furthermore, our Parents Empowered program offers two- month long groups called Anger Aside. This four week class is designed for adults 18 and older and focuses on directing emotional energy effectively. This class, like many of our other classes typically has an intimate group of 10-15 adults.

Another significant benefit of the DCF Family Support grant is that it provides direct staff to our twice weekly playgroups to offer free parent support, a positive and engaging experience for children 0-5, while promoting age appropriate development in areas such as fine motor, language, gross motor and social, emotional. This venue is also designed to increase natural supports for local families, by connecting them to resources and programming in the towns in which they reside. By accessing funds from this particular grant, we are able to provide 4-6 community field trips to families at no cost. We visit locations such as local apple orchards, farms, zoos, aquariums, science centers and participate in community art projects in order to foster the skills we teach at Playgroup, to offer new experiences that may not otherwise be an option, and to connect families to resources in local and surrounding towns.

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TEEG is a 501c3 charitable organization.



Community- Faith-Business

As our mission states, we aim to educate and empower people to make the changes necessary to improve the quality of their lives; to build self-esteem through self-help; to support people as they strive for social and economic independence; to renew neighborhoods through community involvement by all members of the community, regardless of income; to support and strengthen family life. Receiving funds from DCF have positively impacted our mission, our families and our daily work; without these funds we would be forced to end or limit many of our family focused offerings. These grant funds provide the resources necessary to leverage against many private sources of funding; local bank foundations, and corporate giving opportunities which require a financial match. The loss of this grant will cost significantly more than the \$46,000 face value of the grant, and critically limit TEEG's ability to provide essential programming in a part of the state that is already service deprived. Please see the attached spreadsheet of participation reports for the current and past grant cycle.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Current Grant YTD (7/1/14-2/26/15)</u>	<u>Previous Grant (7/1/11-6/30/14)</u>
Parent Education	152 individuals impacted	350 individuals impacted
Anger Aside	13 individuals served	40 individuals served
Gamblers Anonymous	32 sessions, average attendance 15 individuals per session	156 sessions, average attendance 15 individuals per session
Parents as Teachers	12 individuals served	11 individuals served
Parent/Child Playgroup	153 individuals served	335 individuals served
Parent Consultation & Support	132 individuals served	553 individuals served
Total:	477 people impacted	899 people impacted

The number in each service category represent unduplicated individuals served in each respective program.

PROJECT EAST IMPACT STATEMENT

Project East (Early Assessment and Support Team) is a community – school partnership pilot program developed to assess for early identification of behavioral health concerns among elementary school age children, and provide intervention through access to community supports and services. This program has served 31 children to date since WRCC's contract award at North Windham Elementary School, where the program is being piloted.

Children range in age from 7 years of age to 11 presenting a wide range of issues, from withdrawn, poor peer relations, chronically tardy, excessive absenteeism, homelessness, grief issues, PTSD, etc. Interventions have been individualized and range from establishing mentor relationships, provide community support in the form of camps, extracurricular activities, referrals to community based services, such as counseling, youth services bureau programs, after –school programs, etc. The ethnicity breakdown is reflective of the school population, where more than 70% of the children are of Hispanic origin.

Project East also provided children with necessary items when other resources have not been available, such as winter gear, backpacks and school supplies, personal hygiene products, sports uniforms, etc. While these interventions seem basic, they proved to be the difference between attending school on a regular basis, reducing the number of visits to the school nurse, behaving appropriately in the classroom, reducing conflict with peers and engaging in safe and productive after school activities.

Also, of significance, is the amount of services that have been harnessed at no cost to the grant: An example of this, in a nine month period \$3,780.00 in services were provided by the following community based services: Town Rec Dept., Windham baseball league, Columbia/Windham Soccer Association, ECSU, Windham Public Library, FRC, Assembly of God, Iglesia Bautista, 4-H camp, Village Heights Day Camp, Windham Area Hour Exchange.

Parents/Guardians, when appropriate, were referred and also participated in community offered programs such as Parents SEE, PEP, Strengthening Families and school based parenting programs such as Common Sense Parenting at no cost to the grant.

In addition, **Project East** students and their families were referred for services to ACCESS Agency, Generations, Windham Youth Services, Windham Area Interfaith Ministries, United Services, CHR, etc.

This pilot program has proven to be cost effective, allowing community based interventions rather than potential referrals to costly State services and has engaged families in the community where they live.

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